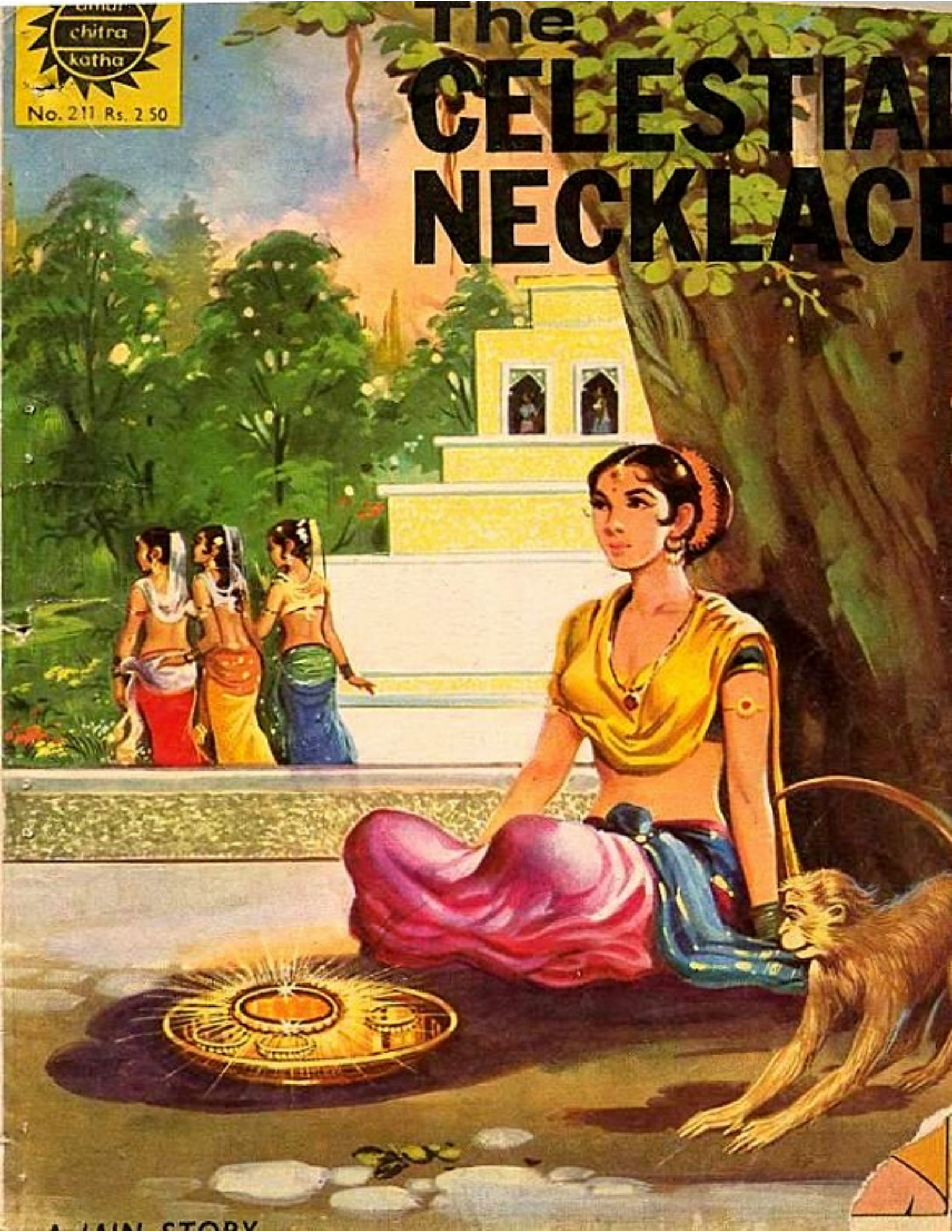


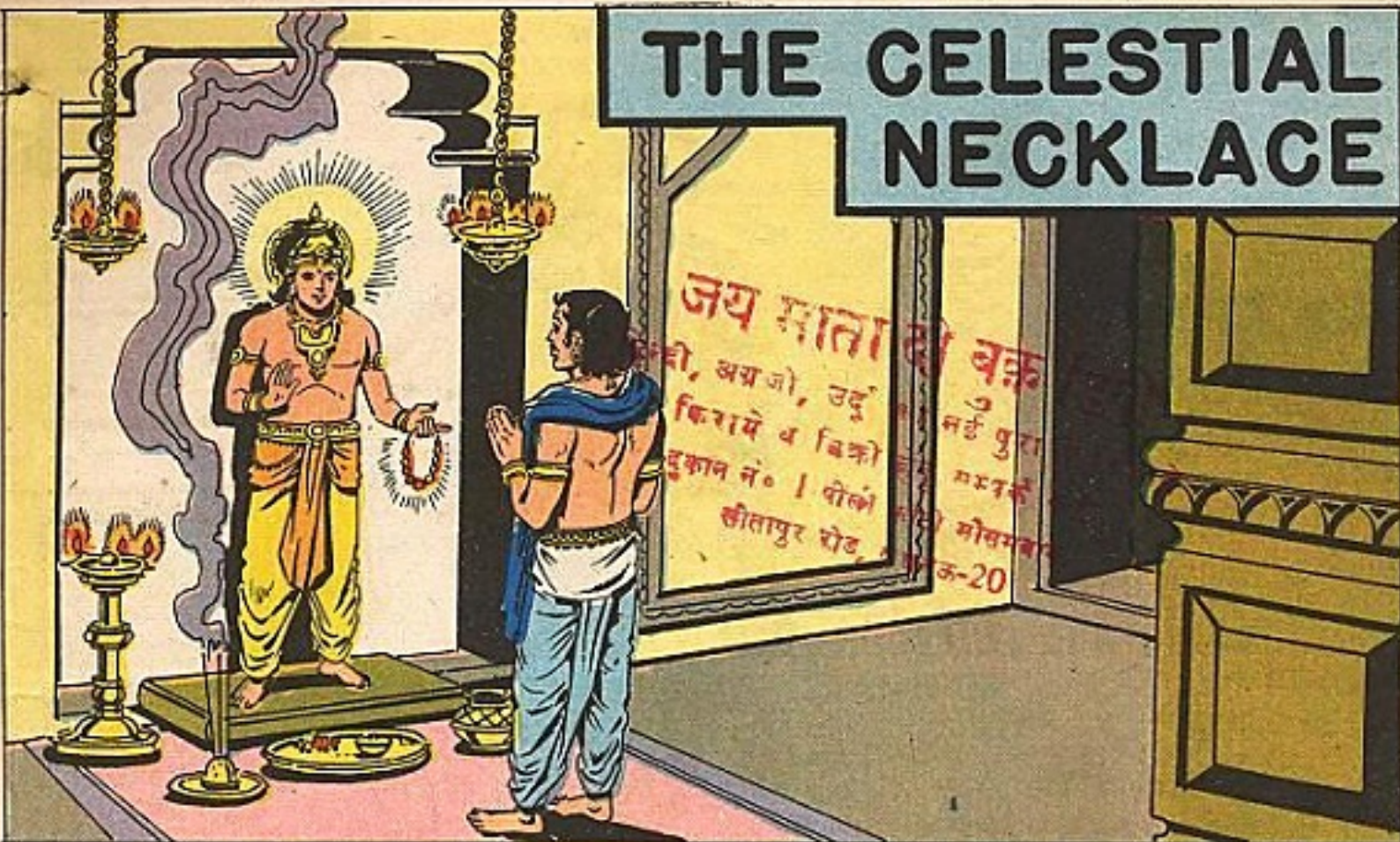
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No. 211 Rs. 2.50

# The CELESTIAL NECKLACE





# THE CELESTIAL NECKLACE



KING SHRENIKA OF RAJAGRIHA WAS A PIOUS KING WHO HAD DONE MANY GOOD DEEDS. ONE DAY A DEVA APPEARED BEFORE HIM AND ...

...REWARDED HIM WITH A NECKLACE OF PRECIOUS STONES.

TREAT THIS NECKLACE WITH CARE...



...FOR IF IT BREAKS, THE MAN WHO REPAIRS IT, WILL DIE AT ONCE!





KING SHRENIKA WAS VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE NECKLACE AND HE GAVE IT TO HIS FAVOURITE WIFE, QUEEN CHELLANA.

IT SHINES LIKE THE STARS IN THE MILKY WAY — IT'S HEAVENLY!

IT IS HEAVENLY. I GOT IT AS A GIFT FROM A DEVA.



LOOK AFTER IT WELL.

I WILL . NEVER, EVEN FOR A SINGLE DAY, WILL I PART WITH MY NECKLACE!



QUEEN CHELLANA WORE THE NECKLACE EVERY DAY.

ONE MORNING, THE QUEEN WAS ABOUT TO PUT ON THE NECKLACE...





WHEN THE STRING GAVE WAY.



OH, MY BEAUTIFUL NECKLACE!

THE QUEEN'S MAID CAREFULLY PICKED UP THE PRECIOUS STONES STREWN ON THE FLOOR.



THE KING WILL BE ANGRY WHEN HE HEARS OF THIS!



DON'T WORRY, MY QUEEN. HE WILL SOON HAVE IT REPAIRED.

BUT WHEN THE KING WAS INFORMED, HE WAS VERY DISTURBED.



I DON'T THINK WE CAN HAVE YOUR NECKLACE REPAIRED.

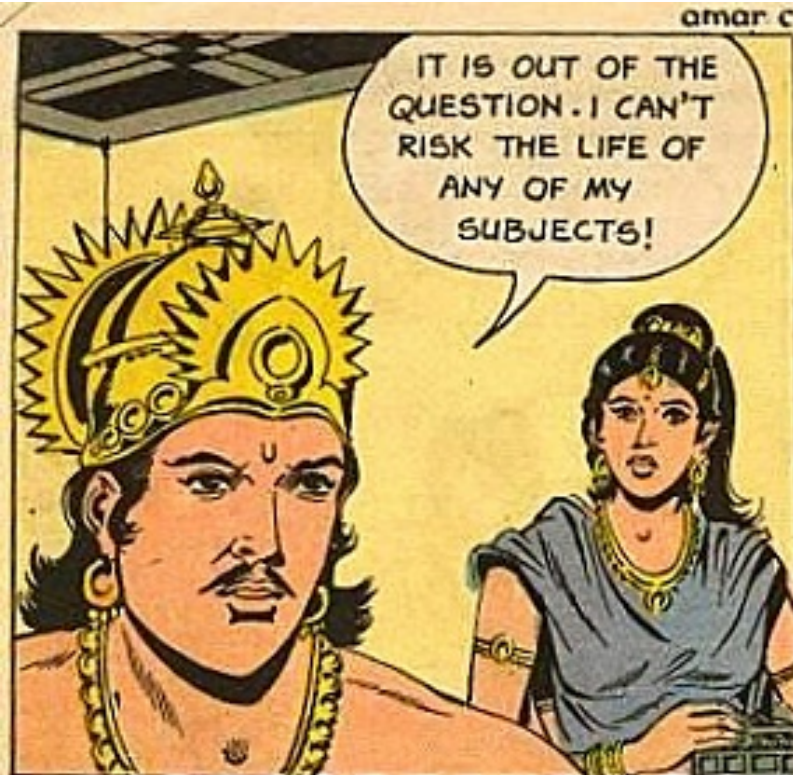
BUT WHY NOT?

BECAUSE THE DEVA, WHOSE GIFT IT WAS, WARNED ME THAT THE MAN WHO REPAIRS THE NECKLACE WILL DIE THE MOMENT THE WORK IS DONE.

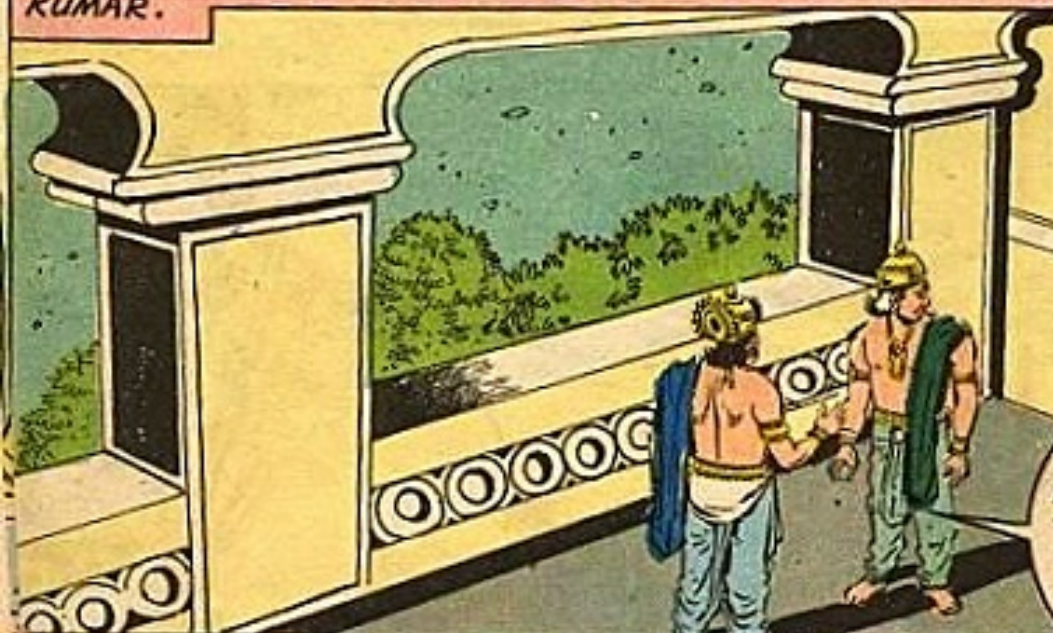


I MUST HAVE MY NECKLACE. I CAN'T DO WITHOUT IT!





THE KING TURNED HELPLESSLY TO HIS MINISTER, ABHAY KUMAR.



WOMEN ARE SO UNREASONABLE! HOW CAN I LIE ABOUT THE FATE AWAITING THE MAN WHO REPAIRS THIS NECKLACE? WHO WOULD THEN BE SO FOOLHARDY AS TO ACCEPT SUCH AN OFFER?





THE NEXT DAY THE KING'S CRIERS ANNOUNCED THE REWARD —

ONE LAKH OF GOLD COINS FOR STRINGING QUEEN CHELLANA'S NECKLACE!

ONE LAKH! JUST FOR STRINGING A NECKLACE?

I'LL DO IT!

AND I!

BUT, REMEMBER, THE MAN WHO COMPLETES THIS TASK WILL DIE IMMEDIATELY AFTER.

OH! THEN IT'S NOT FOR ME!

NOR ME!

FOR A LONG TIME NO ONE CAME FORWARD TO DO THE WORK. THEN AN OLD GOLDSMITH WHO WAS VERY POOR, DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE KING'S OFFER.

I AM AT THE END OF MY LIFE IN ANY CASE. IF I DIE TO EARN THE REWARD, MY DEAR SONS WILL BENEFIT!

SO THE GOLDSMITH ASKED FOR PERMISSION TO SPEAK TO THE KING.

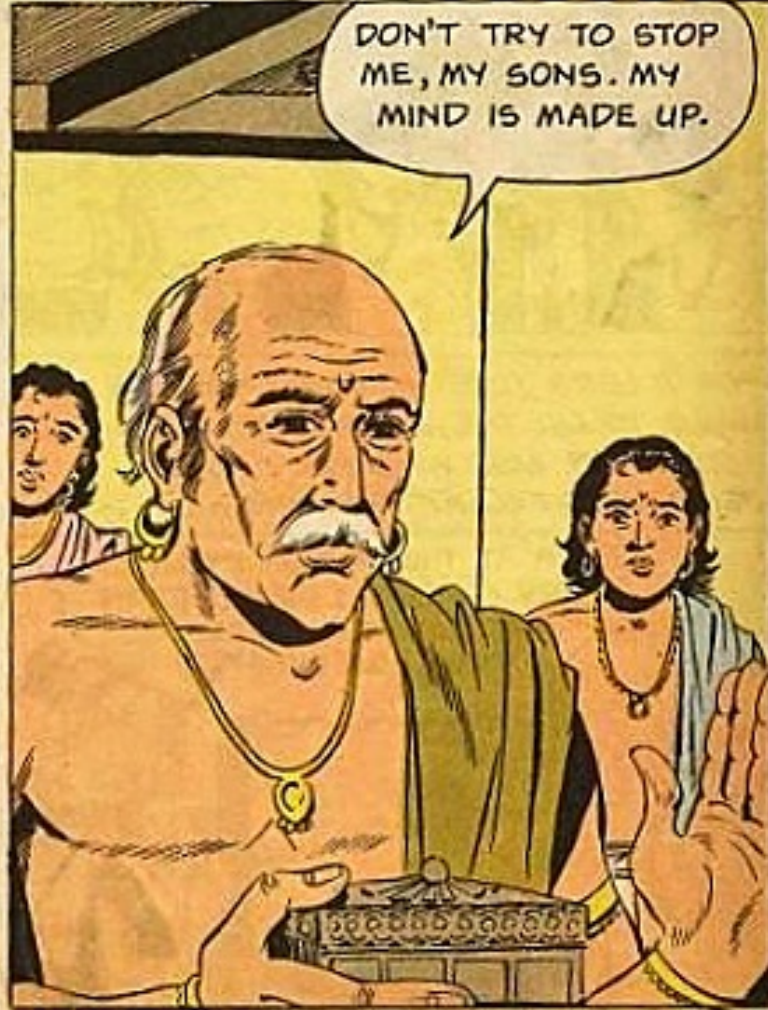
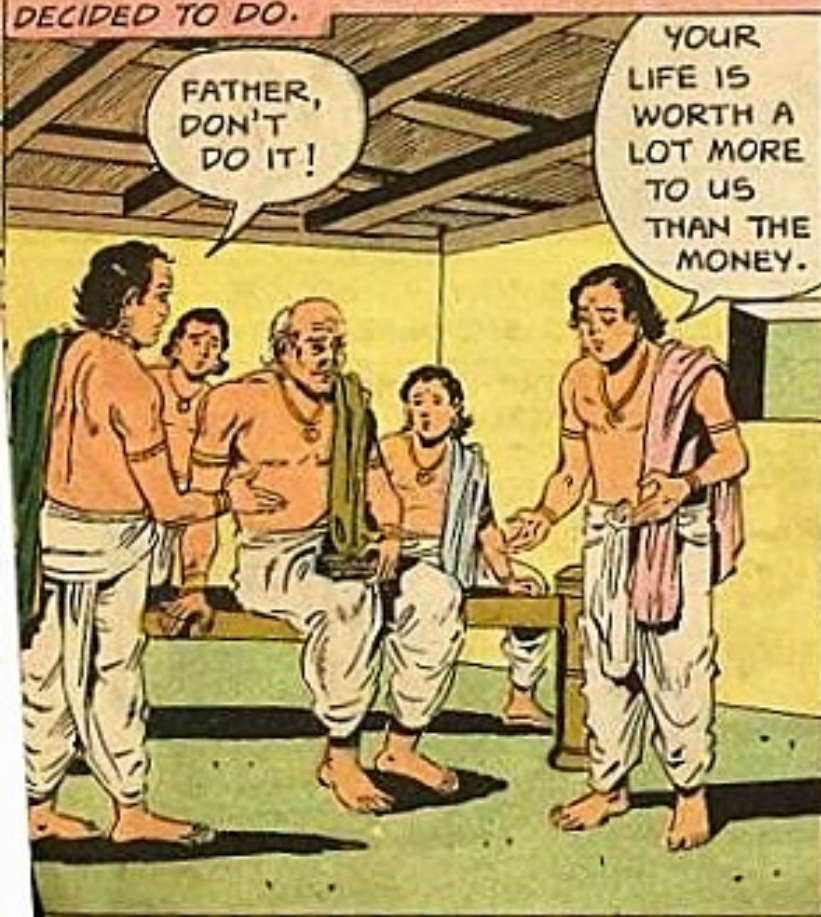
FRIEND, I AM HAPPY YOU HAVE AGREED TO DO THIS SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN.



THE KING TURNED TO HIS GUARD —



THE GOLDSMITH RETURNED HOME WITH THE CASKET AND TOLD HIS SONS WHAT HE HAD DECIDED TO DO.





ONLY REMEMBER, WHEN I HAVE COMPLETED MY TASK AND I AM NO MORE, TAKE THE NECKLACE TO THE KING AND CLAIM THE REST OF THE REWARD.



THE GOLDSMITH THEN SHUT THE DOOR AND BEGAN HIS WORK. SPREADING THE SPARKLING JEWELS IN FRONT OF HIM, HE PREPARED TO THREAD THEM. BUT —

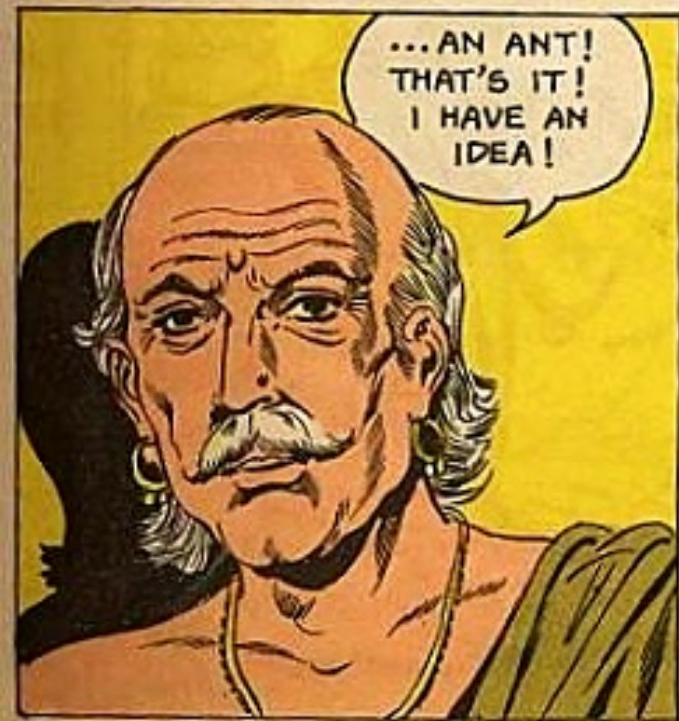
OH! OH! THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED PROBLEM.



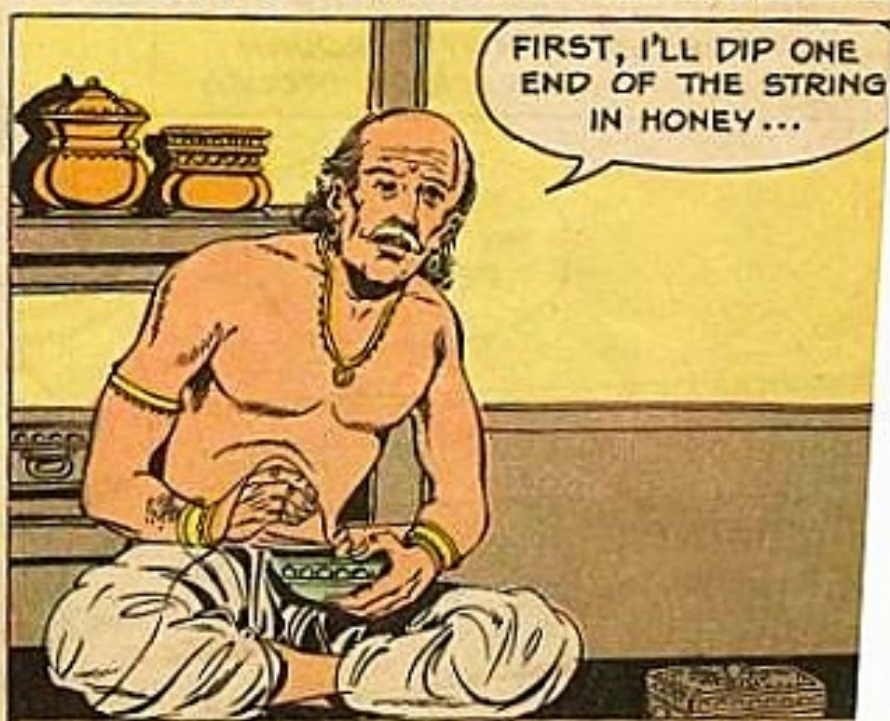
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STRING THESE STONES. THE HOLES ARE SO TINY, ONLY AN ANT COULD GO THROUGH THEM!



...AN ANT!  
THAT'S IT!  
I HAVE AN  
IDEA!

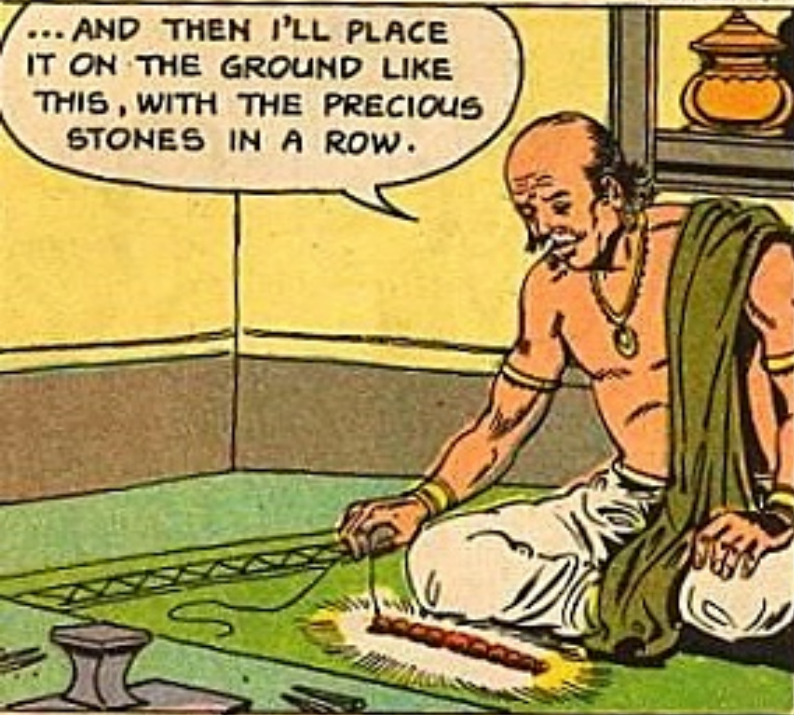


FIRST, I'LL DIP ONE  
END OF THE STRING  
IN HONEY...





...AND THEN I'LL PLACE IT ON THE GROUND LIKE THIS, WITH THE PRECIOUS STONES IN A ROW.



NOW, LET'S SEE IF MY PLAN WORKS.



AFTER A WHILE, AN ANT CAME BY...



... PICKED UP THE STRING ...



... AND PASSED WITH IT THROUGH THE HOLES IN THE PRECIOUS STONES.

PERFECT!  
MY PLAN IS  
PERFECT!

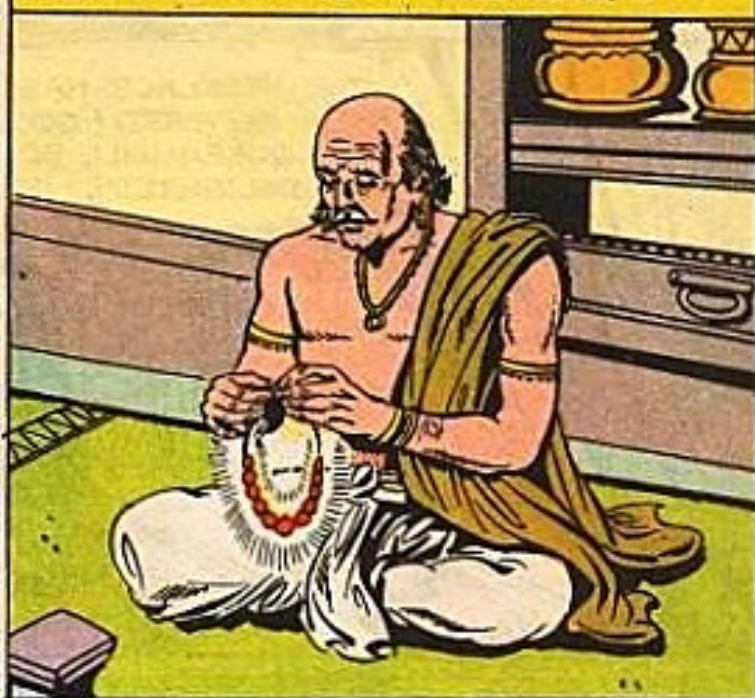




WHEN THE ANT FINALLY EMERGED WITH THE STRING FROM THE LAST STONE...



...THE GOLDSMITH PICKED UP THE TWO ENDS AND FITTED UP THE CLASP.



HE HELD UP HIS BEAUTIFUL HANDIWORK AND REJOICED IN IT FOR JUST ONE MOMENT.



THE NEXT MOMENT, HE WAS DEAD.



THE FOUR SONS OF THE GOLDSMITH MOURNED THE DEATH OF THEIR FATHER.





AFTER SOME TIME, REMEMBERING THEIR FATHER'S LAST WORDS, THE FOUR BOYS TOOK THE CELESTIAL NECKLACE TO KING SHRENIKA.



THE NECKLACE HAS BEEN REPAIRED! GOOD! THE QUEEN WILL BE DELIGHTED!



THEN MAY WE HAVE THE REST OF THE REWARD?

REWARD? BUT WHERE IS THE OLD MAN WHO REPAIRED THE NECKLACE?




THE OLD GOLDSMITH WAS MY FATHER. AS SOON AS HE HAD REPAIRED THE NECKLACE, HE DIED, AS WAS FATED.




HE TOLD US TO COLLECT THE MONEY FROM YOU AFTER HIS DEATH.






BUT HOW DO I KNOW YOU ARE REALLY HIS SONS? FOR ALL I KNOW YOU MAY HAVE STOLEN THE NECKLACE FROM THE POOR OLD MAN!



BUT, SIR...!

GO AWAY, BEFORE I HAVE YOU PUT INTO MY DUNGEONS!

SADLY, THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS LEFT THE KING'S PALACE.



ONE IS POWERLESS AGAINST A KING ....



SOME YEARS LATER, THEY WERE PASSING THROUGH A FOREST.

POOR FATHER!  
IF HE KNEW THE  
KING REFUSED  
TO PAY US THE  
MONEY HE WOULD  
BE VERY  
UNHAPPY.



NOW, THE OLD GOLDSMITH HAD BEEN REBORN AS A MONKEY. THIS MONKEY CHANCED TO BE SITTING ON A TREE ABOVE AND, HEARING THEM, THE MEMORY OF HIS PAST LIFE FLASHED UPON HIM WITH BLINDING SUDDENNESS.

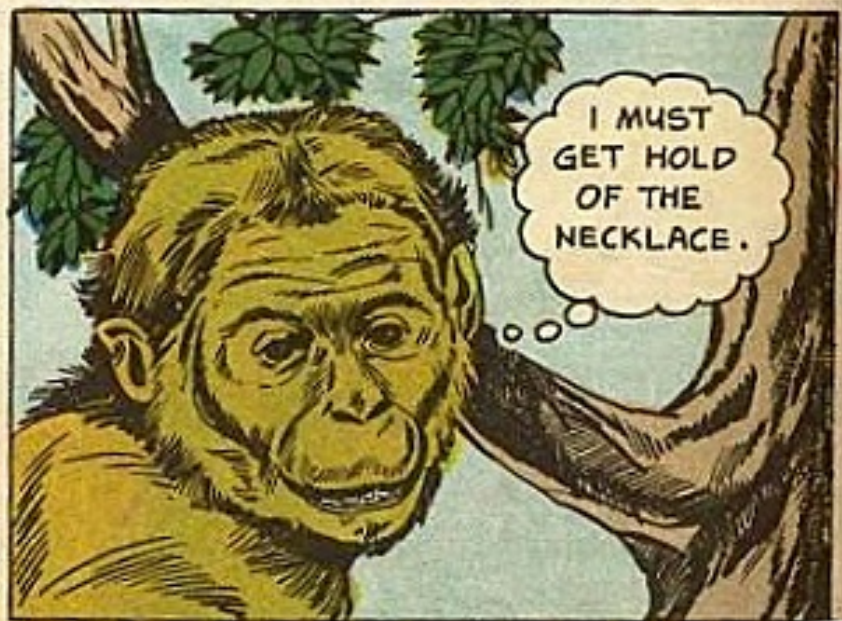
AH, MY DEAR SONS!  
SO THE KING HAS DONE  
YOU OUT OF THE  
REWARD I PAID FOR  
SO DEARLY!



THE KING HAS NO RIGHT TO  
THE NECKLACE. TILL HE PAYS  
FOR THE WORK, IT  
BELONGS TO MY  
SONS.



I MUST  
GET HOLD  
OF THE  
NECKLACE.



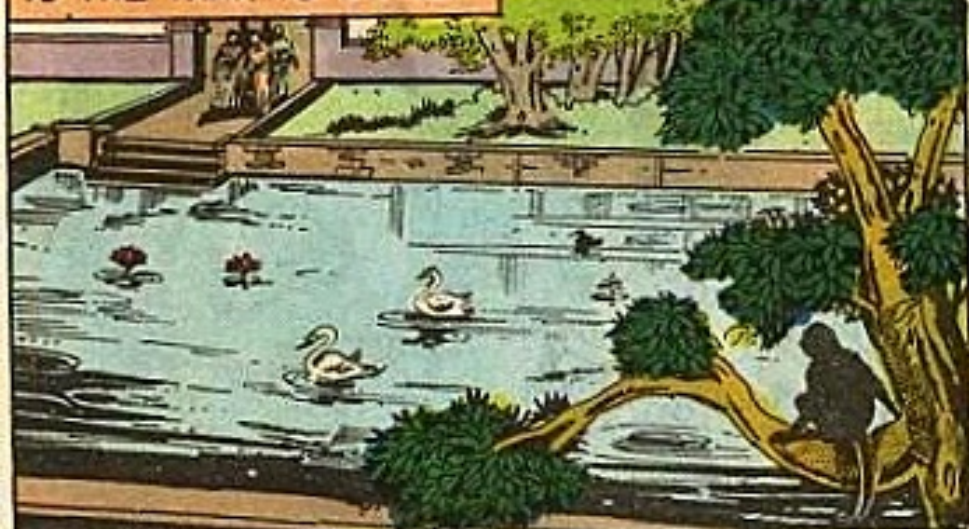


THE MONKEY WENT TO THE PALACE, WONDERING HOW HE COULD GET HOLD OF THE NECKLACE.

IF I GO INTO THE PALACE, I WILL BE SPOTTED AT ONCE. I WILL WAIT OUTSIDE NEAR THIS TANK.



NOT LONG AFTER THIS, QUEEN CHELLANA CAME TO THE TANK TO BATHE.

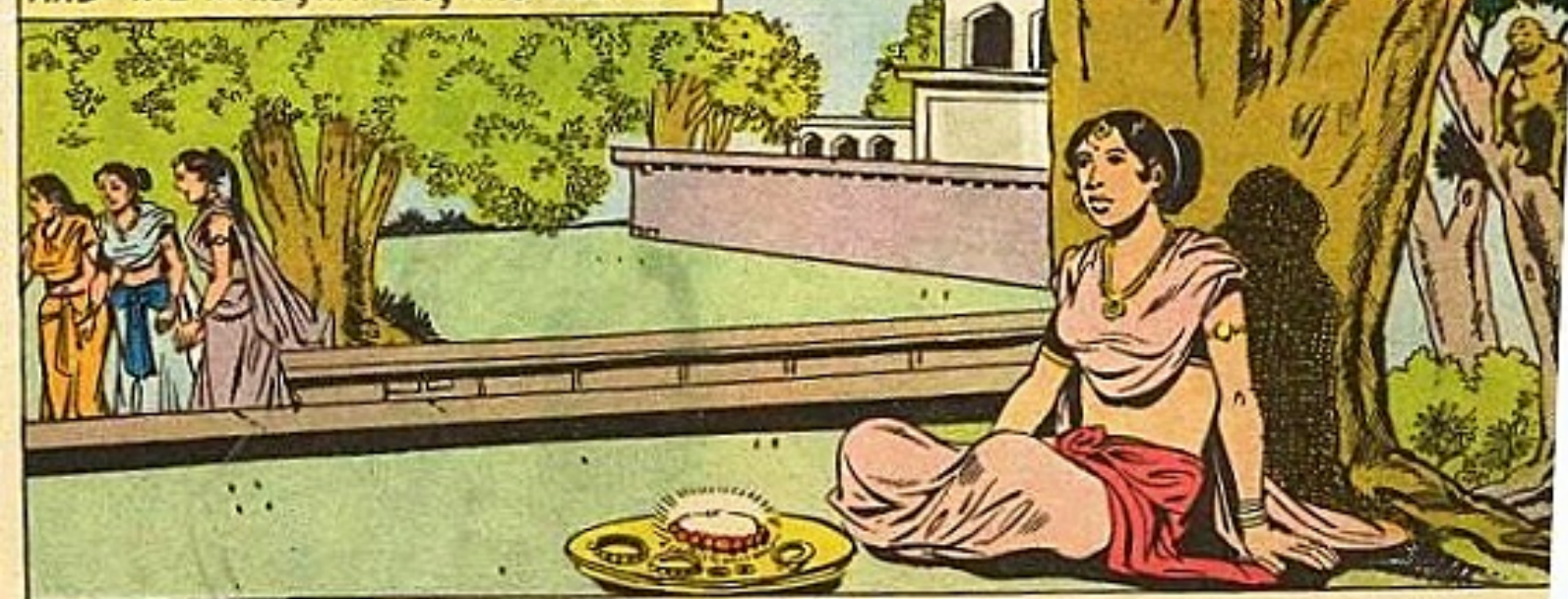


SHE PLACED HER NECKLACE AND OTHER ORNAMENTS IN THE CARE OF HER MAID.

WAIT HERE TILL I RETURN FROM MY DIP IN THE TANK, KAPILA. WE WON'T BE LONG.



THE MONKEY WAITED TILL THE QUEEN HAD LEFT AND THE MAID, KAPILA, WAS ALONE.





THEN HE SWOOPED DOWN SO SWIFTLY ...



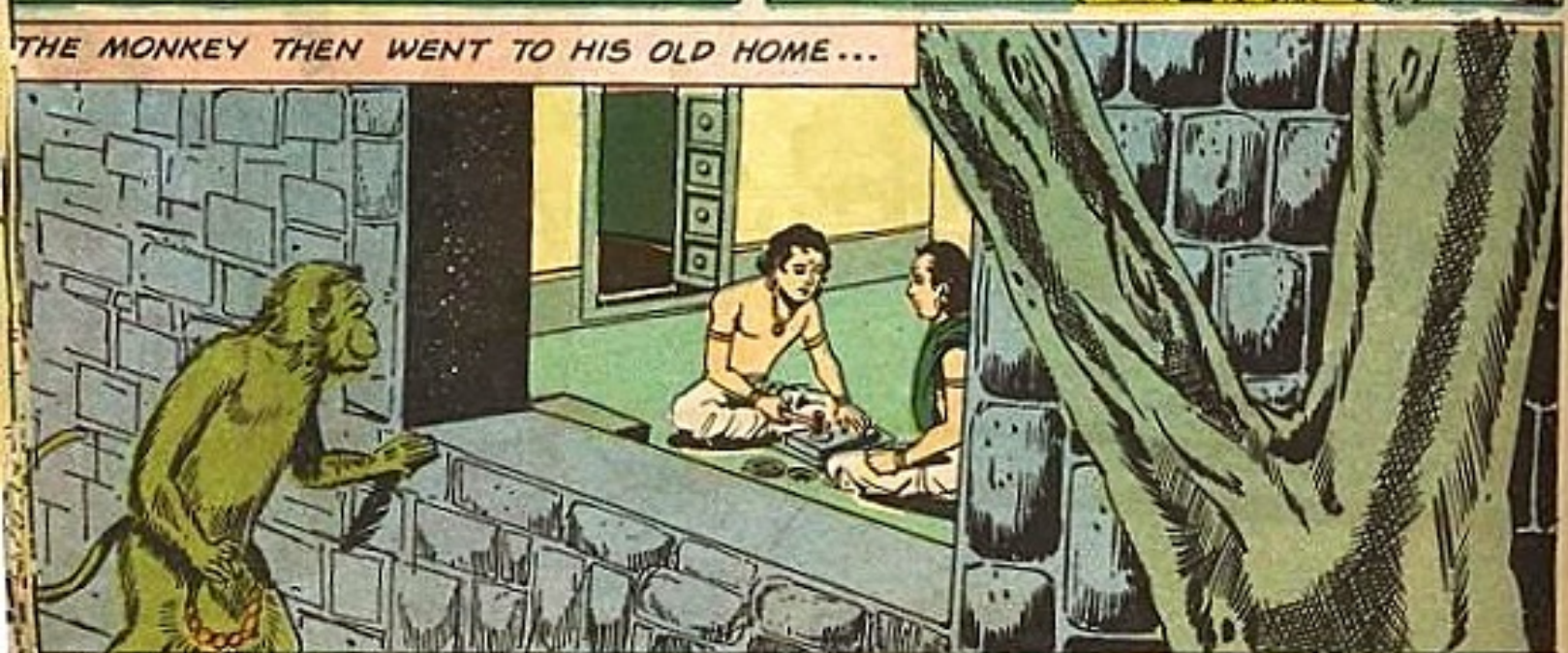
... AND PICKED UP THE NECKLACE SO DEFTLY ...



... THAT THE MAID NOTICED NOTHING .



THE MONKEY THEN WENT TO HIS OLD HOME ...

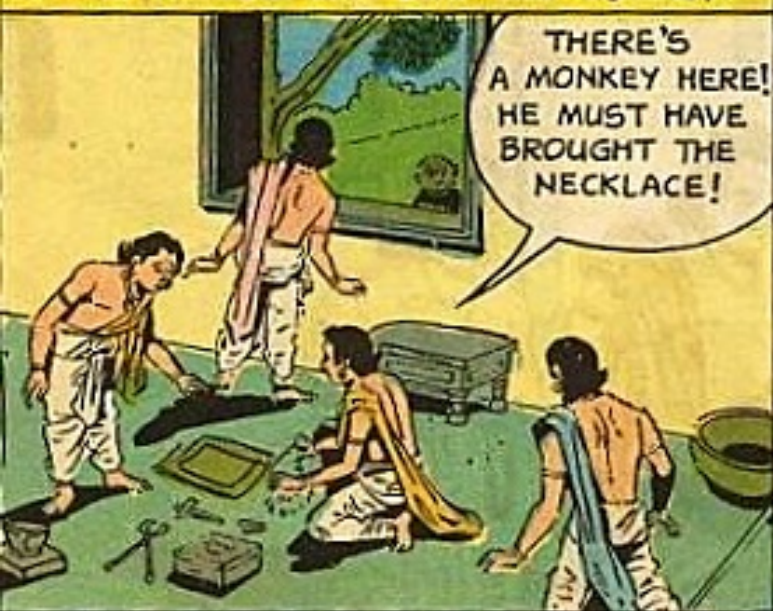




...AND THREW IN THE NECKLACE.



ONE OF THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS SPRANG TO THE WINDOW AND SAW THE MONKEY.







HIDE THE NECKLACE. THE KING HAS NO RIGHT TO IT TILL HE PAYS THE PROMISED REWARD.

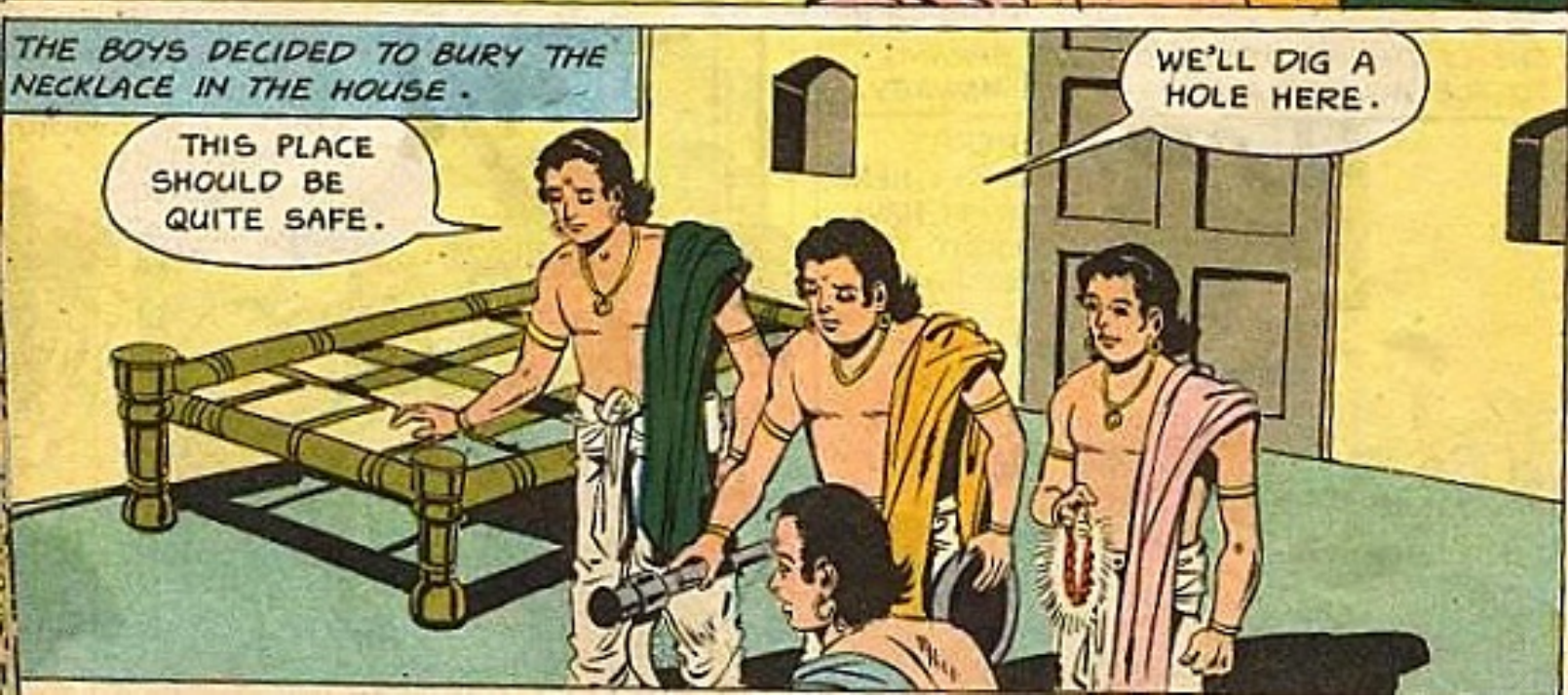


THE SONS WERE AFRAID TO KEEP THE NECKLACE, BUT —

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE AFRAID. DO AS I SAY AND ALL WILL BE WELL.



FAREWELL, MY SONS.



THE BOYS DECIDED TO BURY THE NECKLACE IN THE HOUSE.

THIS PLACE SHOULD BE QUITE SAFE.

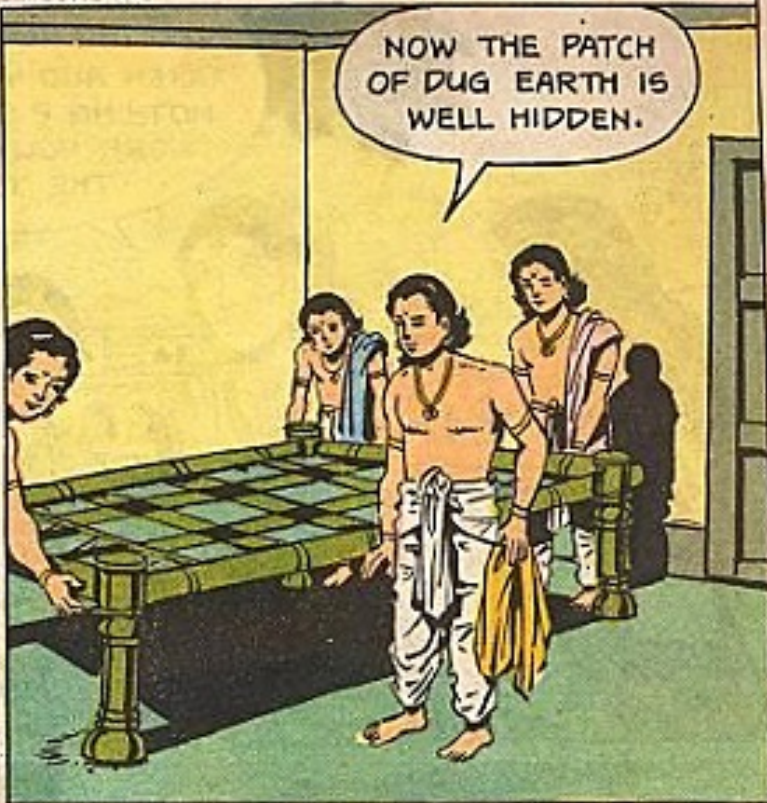
WE'LL DIG A HOLE HERE.



THERE! WE'VE  
FINISHED! LET'S  
PUT THE CHARPOY  
OVER IT.



NOW THE PATCH  
OF DUG EARTH IS  
WELL HIDDEN.



MEANWHILE IN THE PALACE GARDENS —

KAPILA,  
WHERE'S MY  
NECKLACE?

NECKLACE...?  
IT... IT'S  
GONE...!



YOU ARE TREMBL-  
ING, KAPILA! WHY  
SUCH FEAR? I KNOW  
YOU COULDN'T HAVE  
TAKEN IT!

NO, INDEED,  
I HAVEN'T.









HE TURNED TO HIS VIRTUOUS MINISTER.

DON'T YOU  
AGREE, ABHAY  
KUMAR?

YES. IT SHOULD TAKE  
LESS THAN A WEEK TO  
FIND THE THIEF.



SOME TIME LATER —

NO SIGN OF  
THE NECKLACE  
YET?

NO. WE'VE RANSACKED  
THE HOUSES OF ALL  
THE KNOWN THIEVES...





HMM...THE NECKLACE HASN'T BEEN STOLEN BY A REGULAR THIEF, THAT'S CERTAIN. WHOEVER TOOK IT HAD ANOTHER MOTIVE FOR DOING SO.



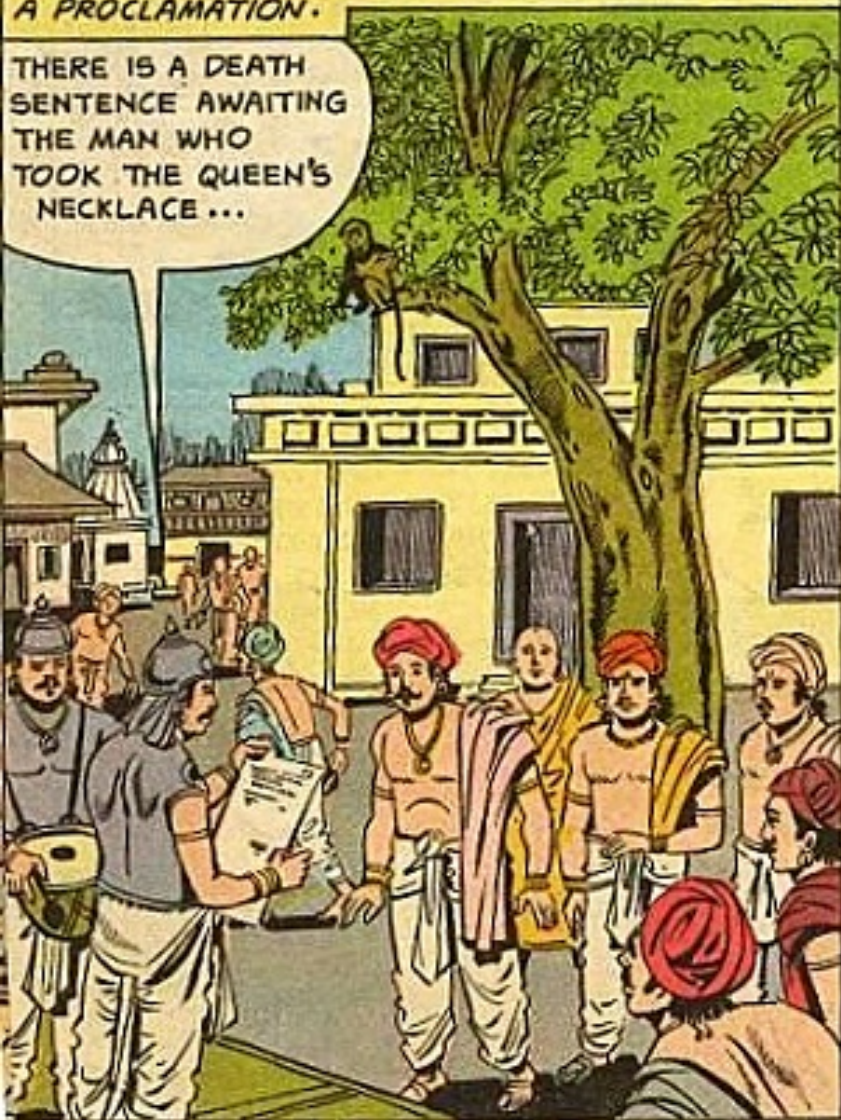
ABHAY KUMAR REPORTED TO THE KING.

THE NECKLACE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RECOVER. WHOEVER TOOK IT, HAS NO INTENTION OF SELLING IT.



AS THERE SEEMED TO BE NO OTHER WAY OF RECOVERING THE NECKLACE, THE KING ISSUED A PROCLAMATION.

THERE IS A DEATH SENTENCE AWAITING THE MAN WHO TOOK THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE...



... BUT IF HE COMES FORWARD AND SURRENDERS THE NECKLACE, HE WILL BE GRANTED A FULL PARDON.

OH! MY SONS SHALL NOT GIVE UP THEIR CLAIM SO EASILY.





THE MONKEY WENT TO SPEAK TO HIS SONS, AND FOUND THEM BUSY DIGGING UP THE HOLE AGAIN. THEY HAD ALREADY HEARD OF THE KING'S PROCLAMATION.

WE HAD BETTER RETURN THE NECKLACE BEFORE WE ARE DISCOVERED!

LET'S DO IT SOON. I AM AFRAID....

NO, DEAR SONS. DON'T RETURN IT. GIVE ME THE NECKLACE. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER.

ALL DAY LONG HE HID IN THE HOLLOW OF A TREE.

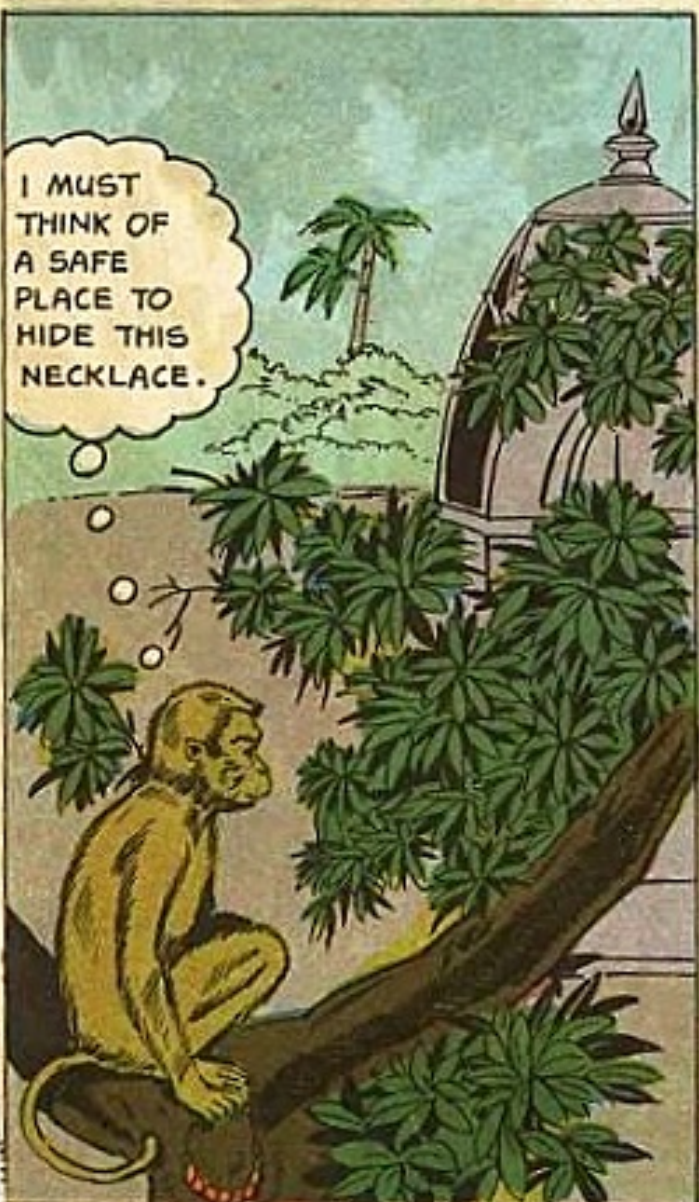
THE MONKEY CARRIED AWAY THE NECKLACE TO THE FOREST.



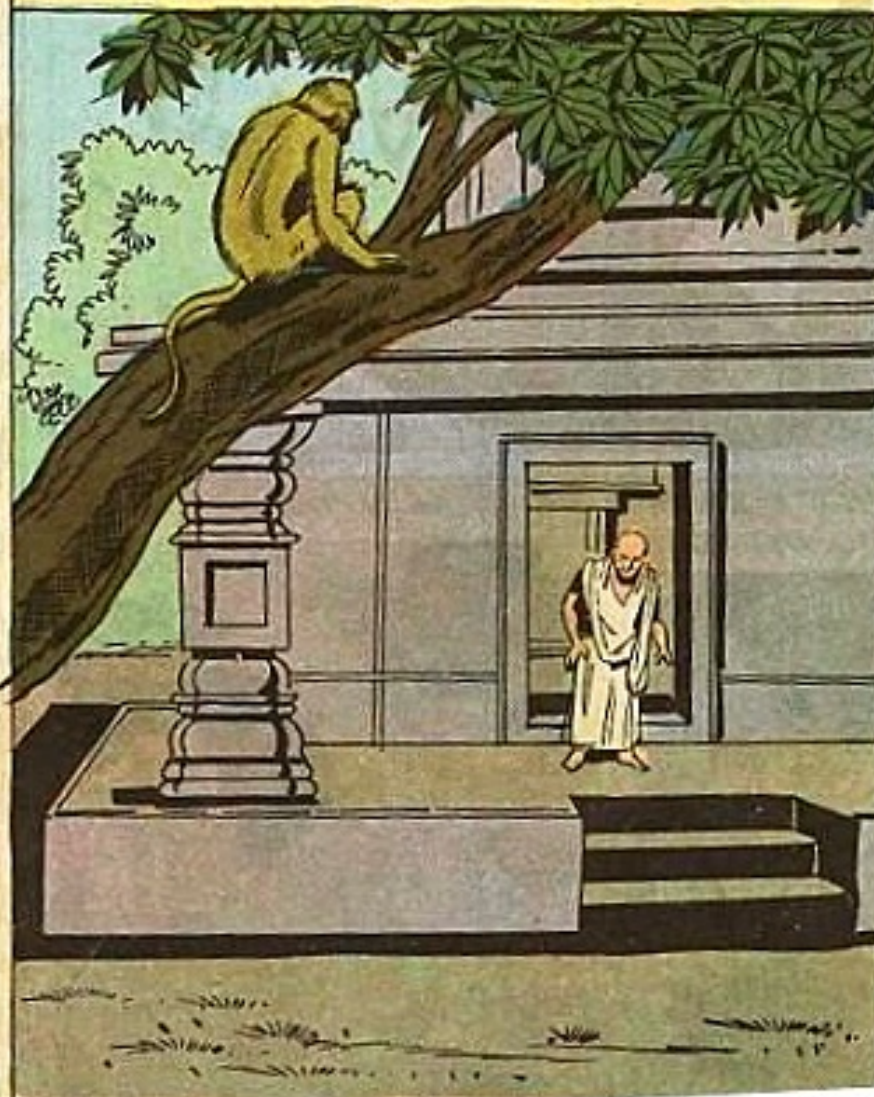
AT SUNSET HE VENTURED OUT AGAIN AND CAME TO A PARK NEAR A TEMPLE.



I MUST THINK OF A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE THIS NECKLACE.



JUST THEN, ACHARYA SUHASTI, A RENOWNED ASCETIC, EMERGED FROM THE TEMPLE...





...AND, STANDING UNDER THE SAME TREE,  
WAS LOST IN MEDITATION.



FOR A LONG TIME THE MONKEY WATCHED  
THE ASCETIC. THEN A THOUGHT SLOWLY  
DAWNED ON HIM —

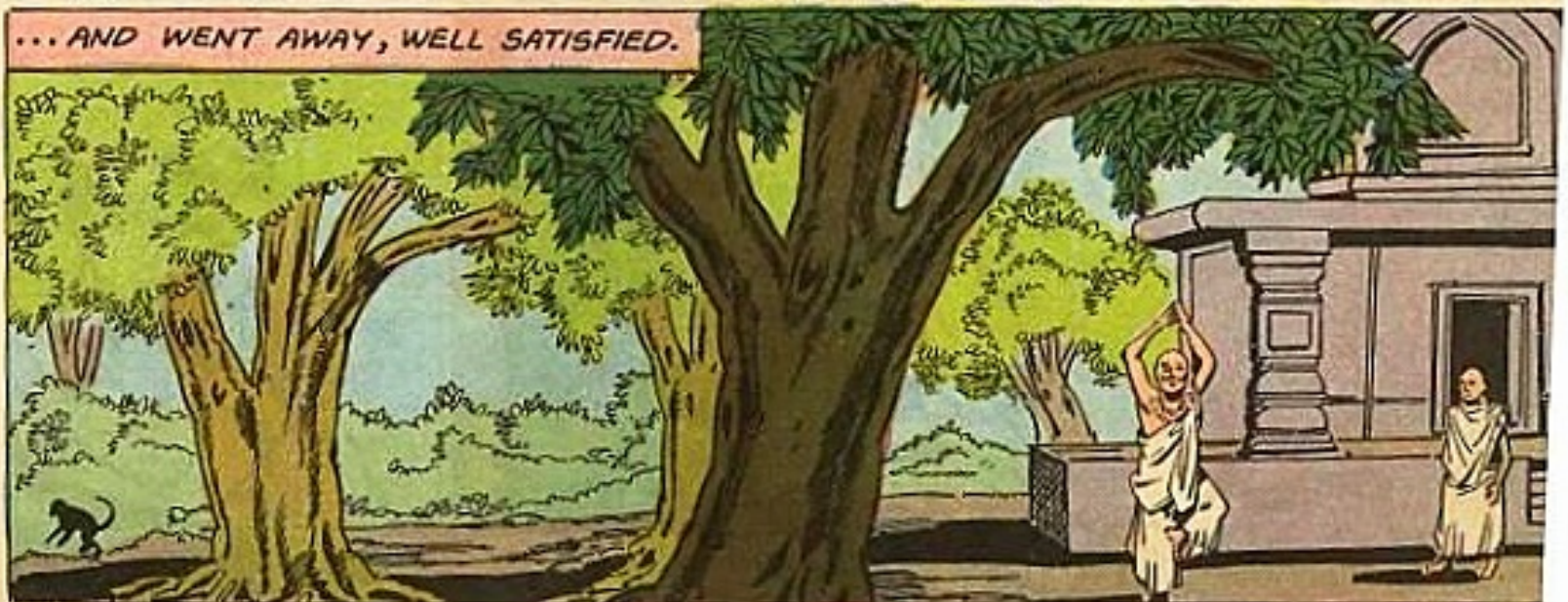
THE ASCETIC IS AN  
HONEST MAN. WHERE  
ELSE COULD THE  
NECKLACE BE MORE  
SAFE THAN ON  
HIS NECK?



SO HE PLACED THE NECKLACE ROUND THE  
NECK OF THE ASCETIC...

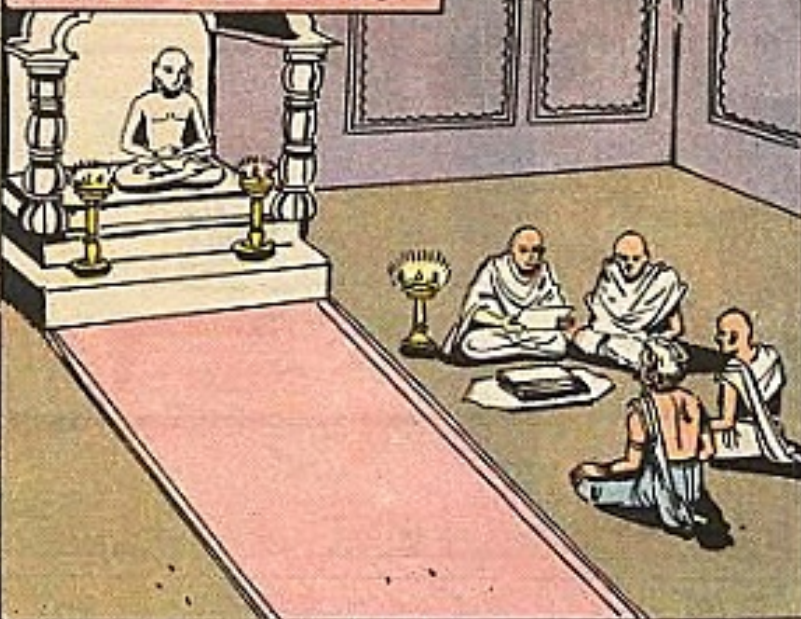


...AND WENT AWAY, WELL SATISFIED.

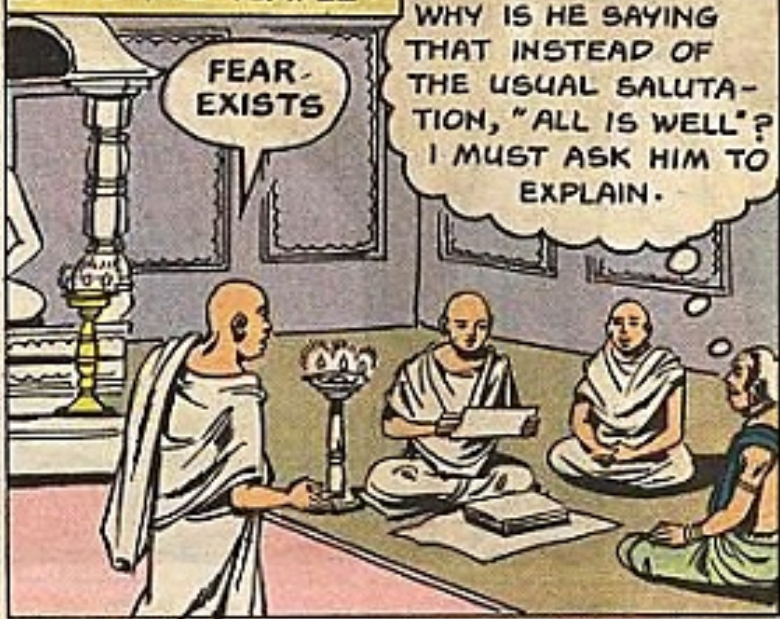




THAT NIGHT, THE KING'S MINISTER, ABHAY KUMAR, WAS PRACTISING AUSTERITIES IN THE TEMPLE IN THE COMPANY OF ACHARYA SUHASTI'S DISCIPLES.



AT THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE NIGHT, SHIVA, THE DISCIPLE WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING UPON SUHASTI, RETURNED TO THE TEMPLE.



SHIVA NARRATED HIS LIFE'S STORY.

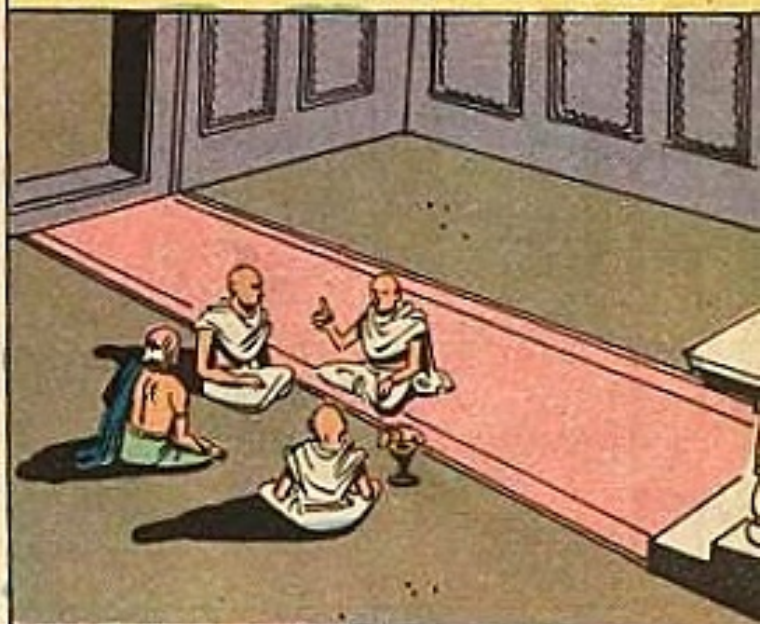


AS SHIVA WAS FINISHING HIS STORY, THE SECOND QUARTER ENDED AND THE DISCIPLE, SUVRATA, WHO HAD BEEN ATTENDING UPON SUHASTI, ENTERED.

GREAT FEAR

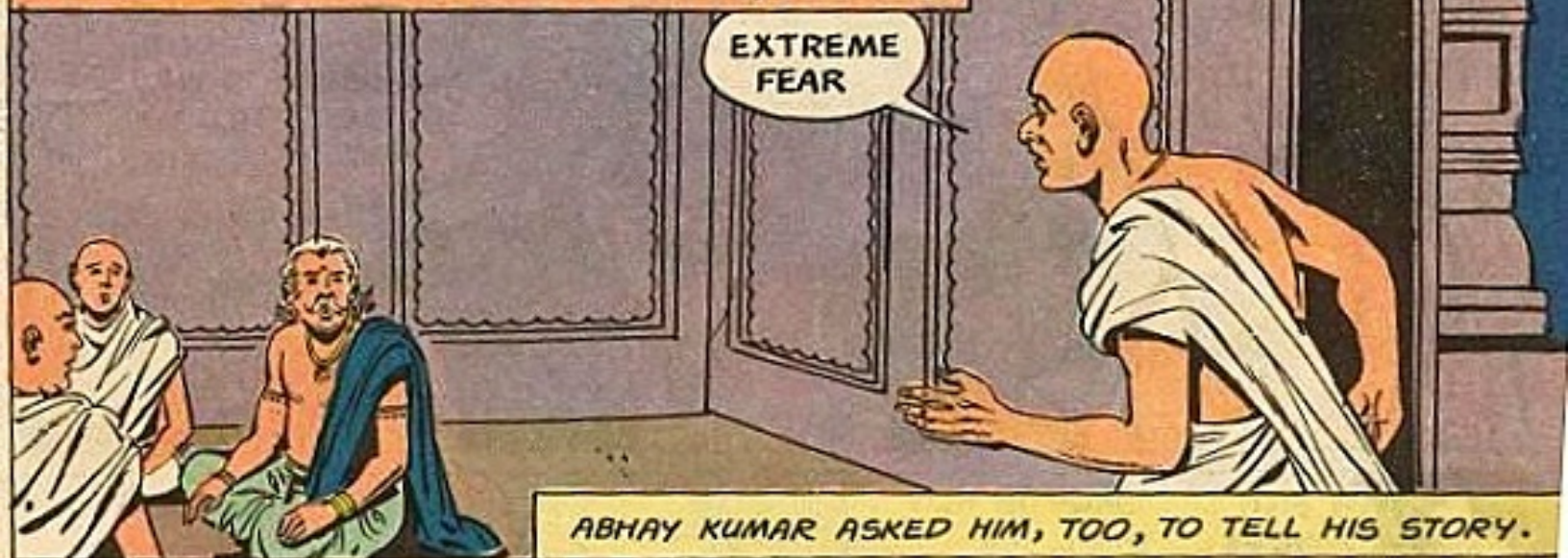


ON ABHAY KUMAR'S ENQUIRY, SUVRATA TOO RECALLED AN EPISODE IN HIS LIFE WHEN HE HAD EXPERIENCED FEAR.



AT THE END OF THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE NIGHT, THE DISCIPLE, JAYANA, WHO HAD JUST COMPLETED HIS TURN OF ATTENDING ON THE ASCETIC, RETURNED.

EXTREME FEAR



ABHAY KUMAR ASKED HIM, TOO, TO TELL HIS STORY.

JUST AS JAYANA HAD FINISHED HIS STORY, THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE NIGHT ENDED, AND THE DISCIPLE, DHANNYA, RETURNING FROM HIS DUTIES WITH SUHASTI, UTTERED THE STRANGE WORDS —

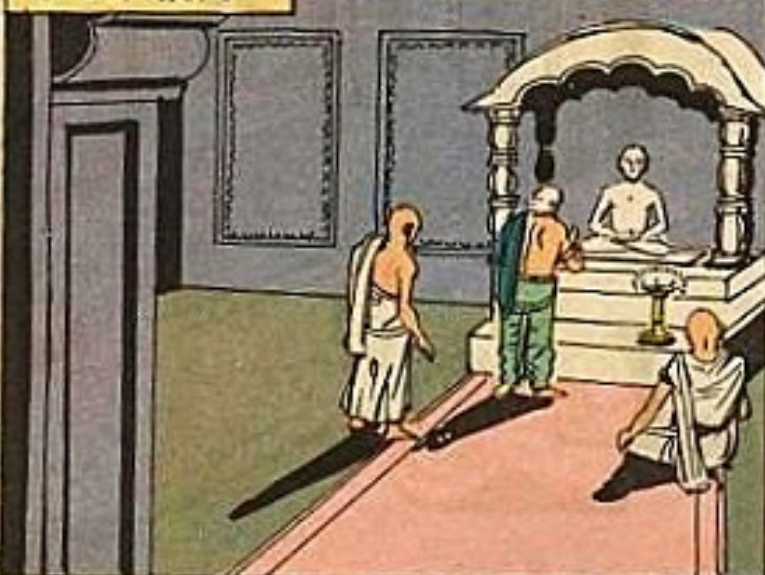
FEAR,  
EXTREME  
FEAR



AND DHANNYA, LIKE SHIVA, SUVRATA AND JAYANA, TOLD ABHAY KUMAR AN EPISODE IN HIS PAST WHEN HE HAD EXPERIENCED EXTREME FEAR.



IT WAS MORNING WHEN THE LAST DISCIPLE FINISHED HIS TALE. THE DEVOUT PRIME MINISTER PREPARED TO DEPART.

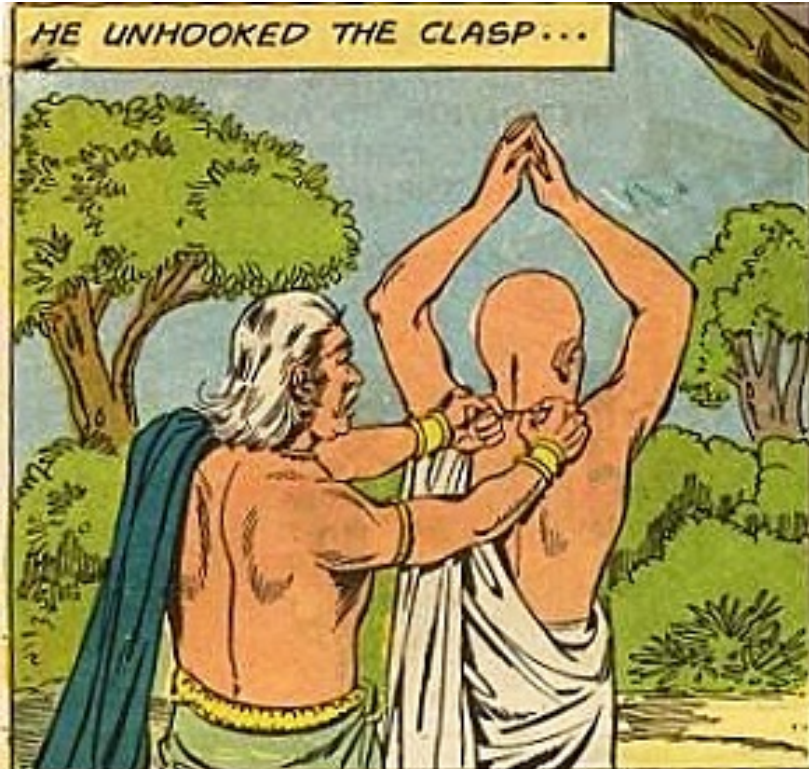


AS HE MADE HIS WAY OUT —





HE UNHOOKED THE CLASP...



... AND TOOK THE NECKLACE BACK TO THE KING.



THERE WAS NO THIEF, KING. I FOUND IT ROUND THE NECK OF ACHARYA SUHASTI.

SUHASTI, OUR PURE SAGE! YOU MUST BE JOKING.



THE NECKLACE WAS SPARKLING ROUND THE SAGE'S NECK, WHILE HE WAS COMPLETELY UNAWARE OF IT AND DEEP IN MEDITATION.

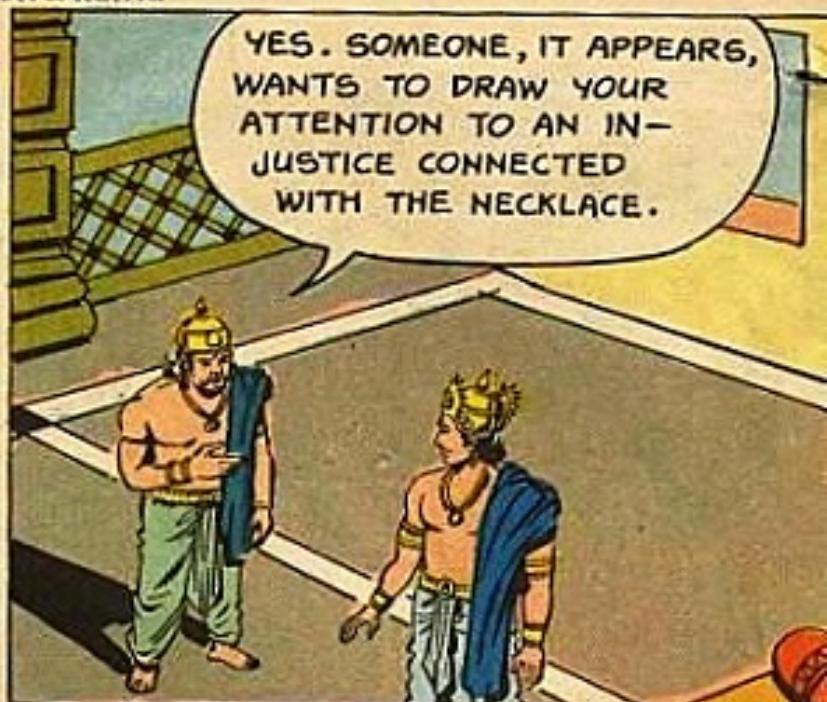




THERE IS SOME  
MYSTERY BEHIND  
THIS ....



YES. SOMEONE, IT APPEARS,  
WANTS TO DRAW YOUR  
ATTENTION TO AN IN-  
JUSTICE CONNECTED  
WITH THE NECKLACE.

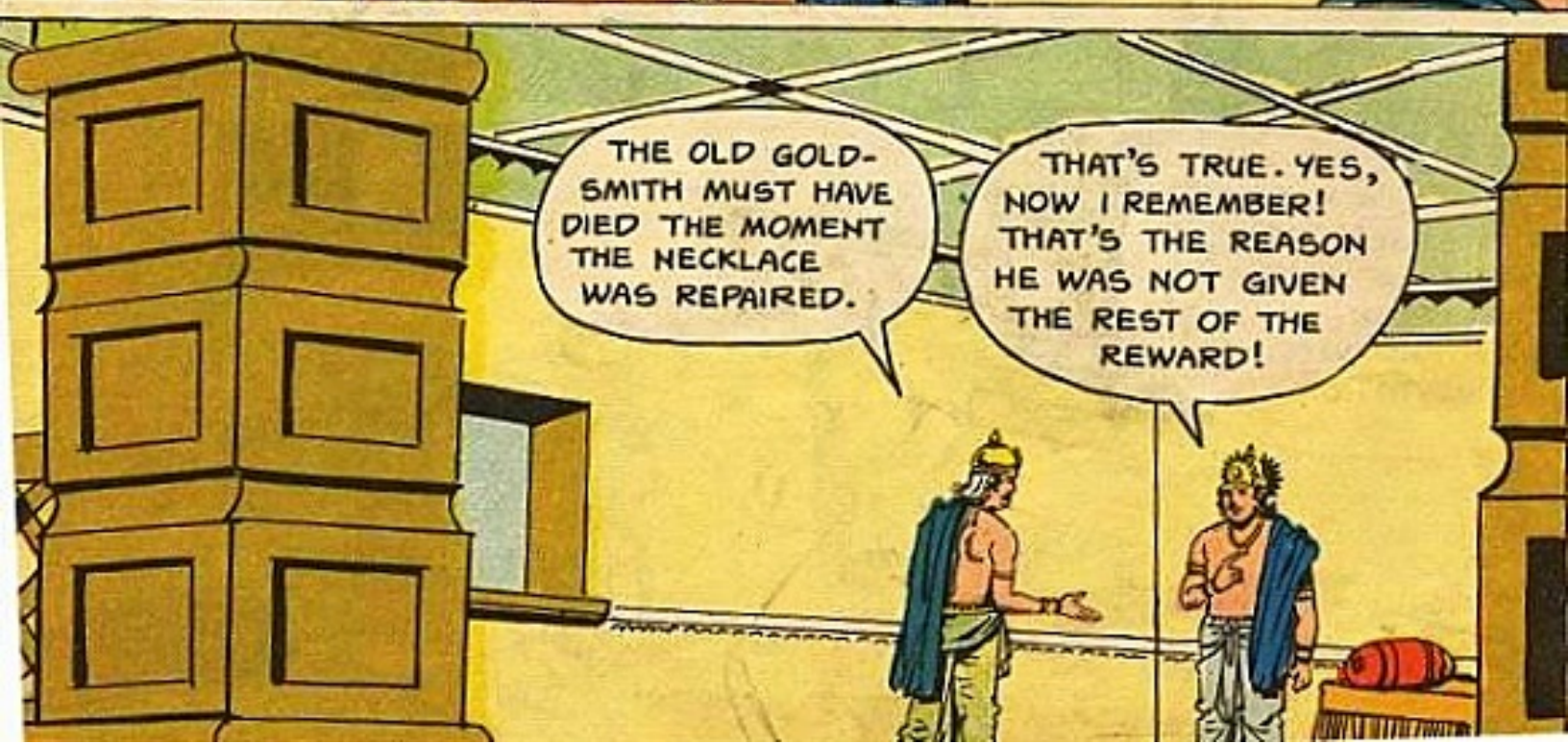


THE OLD MAN WHO  
REPAIRED THE NECKLACE  
DID NOT TURN UP FOR  
THE REST OF THE REWARD  
— DO YOU THINK THAT  
HAS ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH THE THEFT OF  
THE NECKLACE?



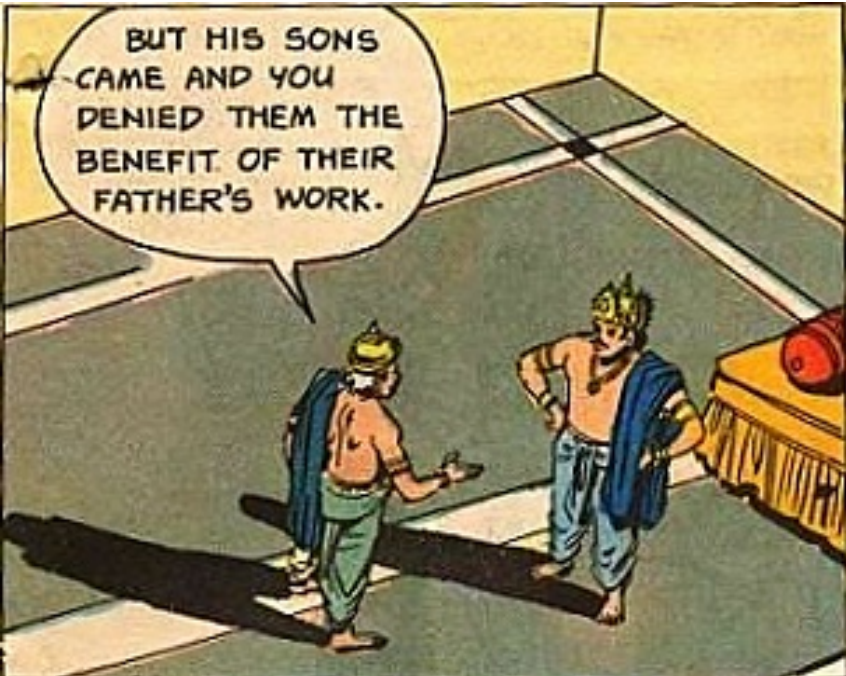
THE OLD GOLD-  
SMITH MUST HAVE  
DIED THE MOMENT  
THE NECKLACE  
WAS REPAIRED.

THAT'S TRUE. YES,  
NOW I REMEMBER!  
THAT'S THE REASON  
HE WAS NOT GIVEN  
THE REST OF THE  
REWARD!





BUT HIS SONS  
CAME AND YOU  
DENIED THEM THE  
BENEFIT OF THEIR  
FATHER'S WORK.



KING SHRENKA WAS LOST IN THOUGHT  
FOR A WHILE, THEN —

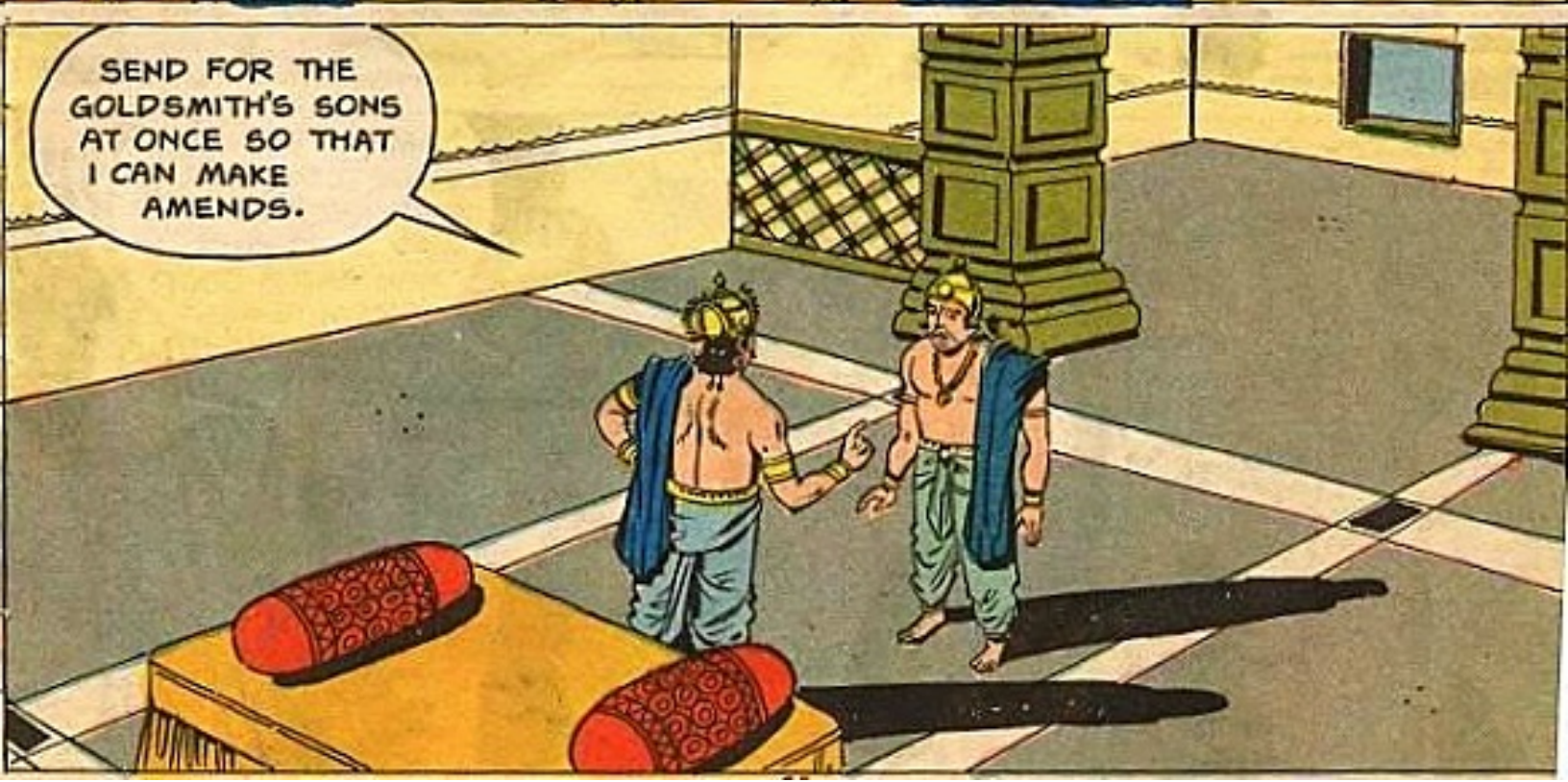
QUEEN CHELLANA  
WAS NOT SO  
WRONG, AFTER ALL.  
THOUGH I DID NOT  
ADMIT IT EVEN TO  
MYSELF, I DID NOT  
WANT TO PAY  
A REWARD.



A KING MUST BE A FATHER  
TO HIS SUBJECTS WHEN THEY  
ARE IN HARDSHIP, YET  
I WITHHELD FROM THOSE  
POOR BOYS WHAT WAS  
THEIR DUE!



SEND FOR THE  
GOLDSMITH'S SONS  
AT ONCE SO THAT  
I CAN MAKE  
AMENDS.





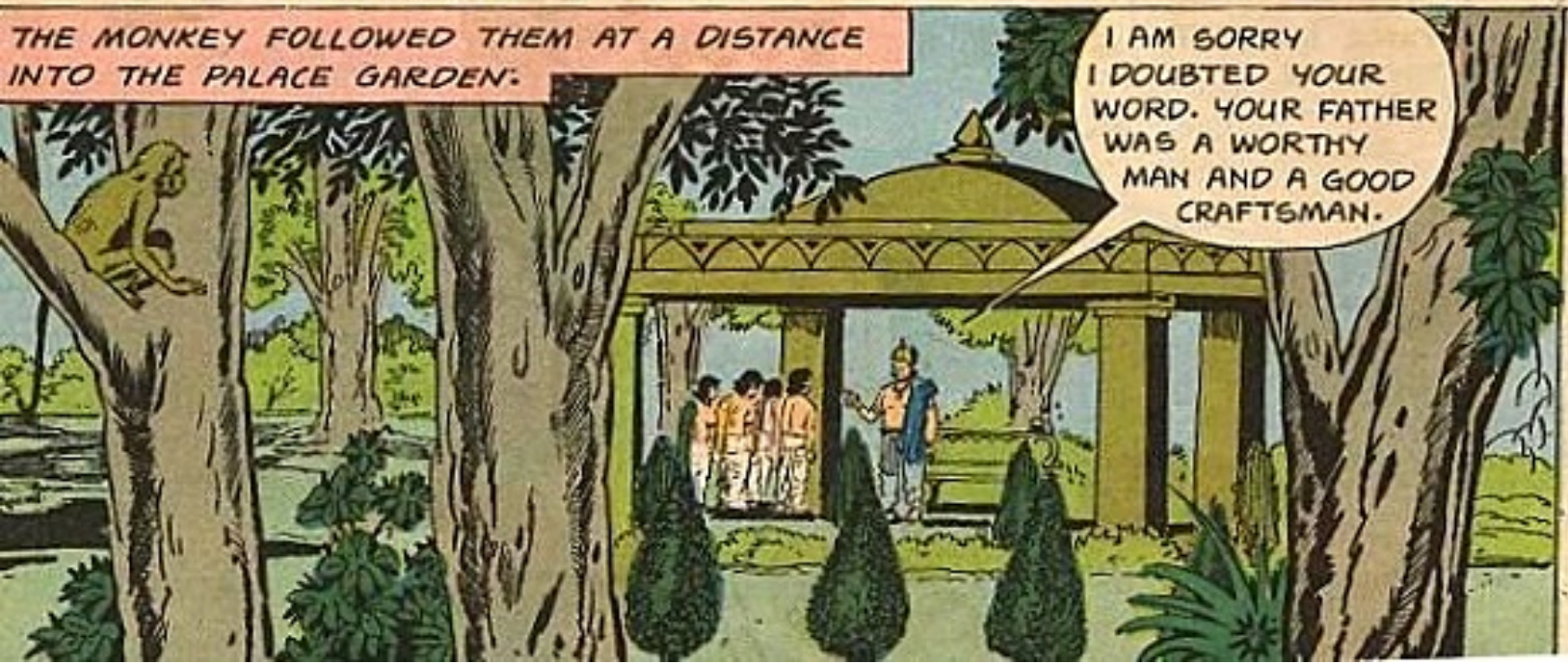
THE GOLDSMITH'S SONS WERE OVERJOYED WHEN THEY RECEIVED THE MESSAGE THAT THE KING HAD REALISED HIS MISTAKE.



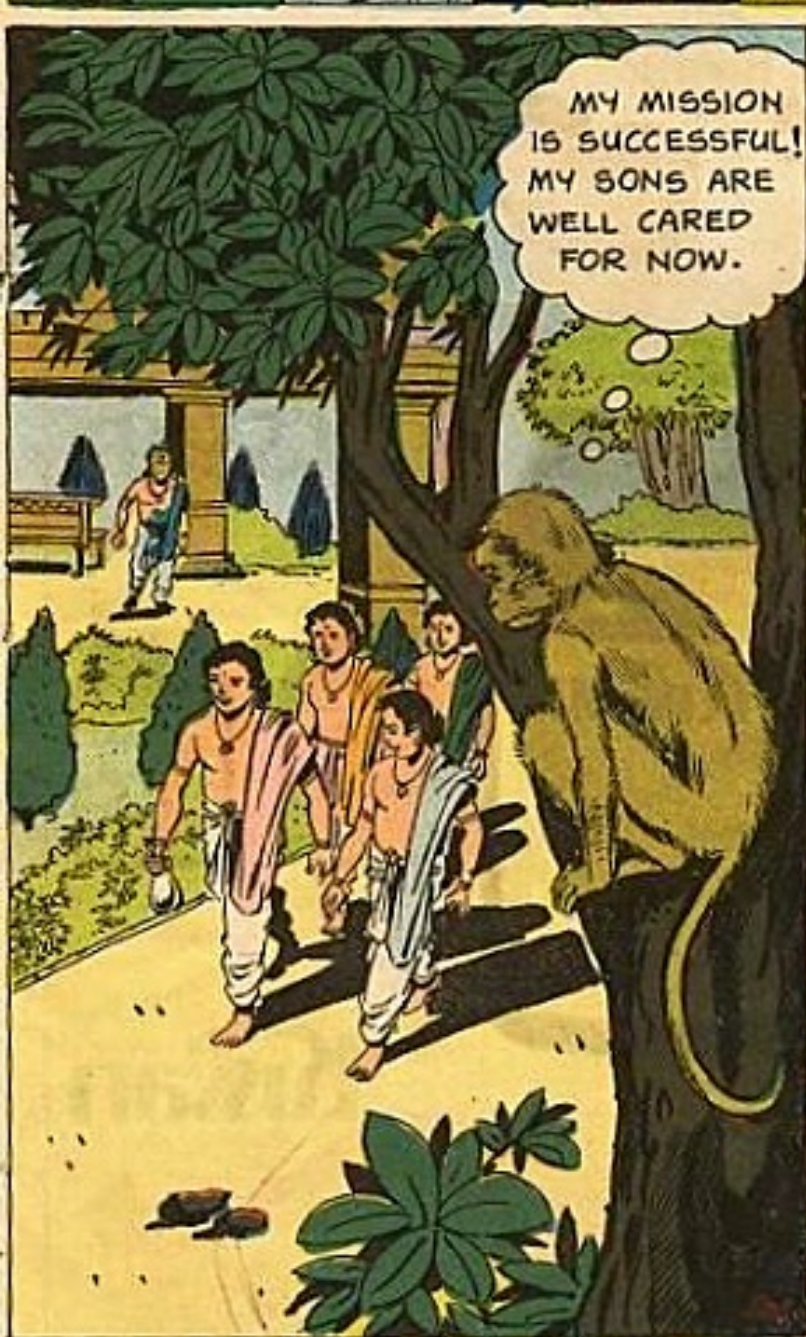
ON THEIR WAY TO THE PALACE, THEY HAD TO PASS THROUGH THE FOREST. THE MONKEY SAW HIS SONS.



THE MONKEY FOLLOWED THEM AT A DISTANCE INTO THE PALACE GARDEN.









Red Indians raid the fort!



# Dipy the Kid in "Delicious Defence"

Dipy the Kid takes charge.



The Indians are thunderstruck!



The Indians call a truce.



An end to fighting, it's time for fun!



es folks! When you've said Dipy's, you've said mouthful! Dipy's make some of the most crumptious squashes and syrups around. Orange, lemon and Mango Squashes. Lemon Barley Water. Lime Cordial. Pineapple Crush. Refreshing Rose syrup. And all the rest of the Dipy's tribe. Those Indians sure knew a good thing when they saw it.

**Dipy's is real fruity  
-so fresh 'n' juicy.**

